Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /084 W

-----041358 081317Z /75

R 081024Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA USMISSION GENEVA AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR SECSTATE WASHDC 4215 INS WASHDC

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FOLG TELE RECD AS SONGKHLA 0204 AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SONGKHLA 0204

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SREF, VM, TH

SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT SONGKHLA REFUGEE CAMP

1. APRIL STATISTICS:

REFUGEES IN CAMP AS OF APRIL 1 : 827

ARRIVALS (INCLUDING ONE CHILD BORN IN CAMP) : 416

DEPARTURES : 143

REFUGEES IN CAMP AS OF MAY 1 : 1,100

THE 1,100 REFUGEES ARE A NET INCREASE OF 237 FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THERE ARE ALSO 51 REFUGEES IN PATTANI AWAITING MOI AUTHORIZATION FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRANSFER TO THE SONGKHLA CAMP.

2. ARRIVALS:

T THE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS, 415 PERSONS IN 15 BOATS, WERE THE MOST IN ANY ONE MONTH IN 1978. MORE PERSONS CAME DURING THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL (257) THAN IN THE FIRST HALF (158).

3. DEPARTURES:

OF THE 143 REFUGEES TRANSFERRED TO BANGKOK FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES, ONLY TWO WERE DESTINED FOR THE U.S. TWO OTHERS WERE DESTINED FOR SWITUERLAND; 139 FOR AUSTRALIA. THREE OTHERS, NEVER INCLUDED IN THE CAMP POPULATION, WERE ALSO TRANSFERRED APRIL 25 TO BANGKOK FOR EVENTUAL MOVEMENT BACK TO VIETNAM. THEY WERE NVA SOLDIERS WHO DESIRED TO RETURN TO VIETNAM.

4. COMMENTS:

THE MORALE OF THE REFUGEES IN CAMP IS POOR. THE OVERCROWDING --1,100 PERSONS SQUEEZED INTO QUARTERS BARELY SUITED FOR 500-- IS UNIMAGINABLE. POOR CAMP LEADERSHIP, SPOTTY FOOD DELIVERY, AND THE RECENT HEAT WAVE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROBLEM, AS HAS THE SLOW RATE OF DEPARTURES. THAT ONLY TWO PERSONS LEFT FOR THE U.S. IN APRIL HAS BRED SUSPICIONS AMONG THE REFUGEES. THE BELATED ARRIVAL OF THE ICEM MEDICAL TEAM IN LATE APRIL AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW U.S. PAROLE PROGRAM HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BOOSTING MORALE SOMEWHAT.

5. PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO BE UNHAPPY WITH THE RISING NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN CAMP. WHILE THEY MAY NOT OFFICIALLY ENCOURAGE THE REFUGEES TO SAIL FOR A THIRD COUNTRY, I BELIEVE THEY WILL DO LITTLE TO PREVENT THEM FROM SAILING.

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HAYASHIDA UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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